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LAUNCESTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1971

Health Area Office,  
Launceston, Cornwall

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.  
Medical Officer of Health



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Health Area Office,  
Launceston

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the  
Launceston Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health for the year 1971.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population showed a decrease of 70 from 7060 in 1970 to 6990 in 1971. The number of live births increased by eight to 106, while the total of deaths - 67 - was 16 fewer than for 1970. The decrease of population, in face of the very favourable balance of births over deaths, indicates a fairly large movement of population from the Rural District. Heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer in that order, were the most common causes of death. Two stillbirths and two infant deaths were recorded during the year.

Once again, the incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low.

The completion of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for Warbstow, Fregadillett, Yeolmbridge and Bathpool, and the beginning of the construction of the scheme for Lezant, continued the account of the Council's progress in this important aspect of the improvement of environmental conditions in the District.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. T.C.J.White, the Council's Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together, and in the preparation of this report, the bulk of the information concerning the sanitary circumstances of the District having been provided by him. To Mr. G.L.Davey, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. F.R.Thorne, the Council's Surveyor, and the Council's other officers, I am indebted for much willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

The interest of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee is once more gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health



LAUNCESTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health & Housing Committee

Sewerage Committee

Cllr. W.D. Allin - Chairman

Cllr. H.R. Jones - Chairman

Cllr. Mrs. E di Bryant - Vice Chairman

Cllr. F. Broad - Vice-Chairman

Cllr. H.S. Sandercock

Cllr. J.H. Cory

Cllr. R.J. Chegwyn

Cllr. C.H. Hutchings

" H.J. Barriball

" G.A. Facks-Martin

" C.J. Cowling

" W.J. Palmer

" T. Dodd

" E.J. Dingle

" Dr. L.V. Sumner

" W.T. Hutchings

" E.C. Chudleigh

" W.R. Sandercock

" E.W.M. Shillaber

" W.J. Uglow

" J.H. Stephens

" W.S. French

" A.L. Stephens

" W.J. Rowland

" D.E. Phillips

" T.R. Uglow

" J. Harvey

" A. Barriball

" J.A. Mann

Ex officio : Chairman of the Council Mr. L. Hooper and Vice-Chairman Mr. R. T. Kneebone

Meals-on-Wheels Sub-Committee

Cllr. L. Hooper, Chairman of the Council

" Mrs. E di Bryant

" E.C. Chudleigh

" G.A. Facks-Martin

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

also holds appointments of :

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Borough Council  
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council  
Stratton Rural District Council  
Camelford Rural District Council

Health Area Medical Officer, Area No. 6 Cornwall County Council

School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

T.C.J. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

AUTHORISED MEAT INSPECTORS :

D. BURNS

M. DAWE





# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	85, 267
Population	6, 990
No. of separate dwellings occupied	2, 500
Rateable value 1971	£132, 882
Product of lp rate	£1, 252

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
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Legitimate	100	45	55	15.2
Illegitimate	6	2	4	

<u>Stillbirths</u>	2	2	-	19 (Rate per 1,000 total births)
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<u>Deaths</u> (all causes)	67	28	39	9.6
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## Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	}	N I L
Other Puerperal Causes		

## Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)

2	2	-	19
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	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	3	7
Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L	
Diarrhoea (under 2)		N I L	





## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres) 85,267. The district is essentially agricultural. Mining, formerly an important industry, is no longer in active operation, but quarrying, on a commercial scale, is carried on in the District. Industry otherwise is largely connected with agriculture, but there is a factory producing articles of plastic clothing.

Population. The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population was 6,990, a decrease of 70 over the previous year. The "natural increase" of the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1971, there were 39 more births than deaths.

Deaths. The total number of deaths assigned to the district for the year was 67 compared with 83 in 1970. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 9.6 compared with 11.8 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1967	74	38	36	10.5
1968	70	36	34	9.9
1969	82	42	40	11.6
1970	83	36	47	11.8
1971	67	28	39	9.6

In order to compare the mortality in the district with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.92 for the District.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 9.6 which may be compared with that of 11.6 for England and Wales.

Births The number of live births assigned to this District was 106 compared with 98 in 1970. The rate per thousand of the population was 15.2. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.10) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 16.7 for this District compares with 16.0 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths - There were two stillbirths in 1971.

Illegitimate Births - There were six illegitimate births assigned to the District during the year. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births, this represents 6 per cent.

Maternal Mortality - There was no death connected with childbirth during the year.



Infant Mortality - There were two infant deaths in 1971.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
M	1 day	Extreme prematurity
M	4 days	Pulmonary Haemorrhage

NOTE :

VITAL STATISTICS

It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.



MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 65 headings based on the  
Abbreviated List of the International Statistical  
Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1965.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasm	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	9	5	14
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	4	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	16	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	3	5
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions	1	2	3
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
All other External Causes	1	-	1
	28	39	67





## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services

- I Health Department. The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
  - (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
  - (b) Health Visiting. Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine this work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
  - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
  - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
  - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination, are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.  
 Vaccination against measles is now provided for susceptible children up to the age of 15 years, and a limited scheme of vaccination against German Measles, for older girls of secondary school age, has been introduced.
  - (f) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utility sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from the Ambulance Control, Bodmin.



- (g) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children.

Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, while health education is carried out by the County's Medical and Nursing Staff.

- II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils  
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-

Dental Clinic, twice weekly

Child Guidance, by arrangement

- III Social Services Department.

The Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, which resulted from the recommendations of the Committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Services (the Seebohm Report) presented to Parliament in 1958, came into full operation on 1st April, 1971. This Act required the County Council to set up a Social Services Committee and appoint a Director of Social Services, who is now established at Old County Hall, Truro.

The Department is responsible for the following :-

All duties formerly carried out by the Children's Department  
All duties formerly carried out by the Mental Health and Welfare section of the Health and Welfare Department.  
Family casework with the physically and mentally disabled.  
Day centres, clubs, adult training centres, workshops and residential accommodation for the above.  
The day care of children under the age of five years, playgroups, etc. day nurseries and child minding.  
The care of unsupported mothers, including residential care.  
Home Help Service.

The Department retains a link with the Health Department in that the County Medical Officer remains Medical Adviser to the County Council, including the Social Services Committee, and the Deputy County Medical Officer deals with day-to-day medical matters affecting the Social Services Department.







The Social Workers for the District work from the Health Area Office, Launceston. The Social Worker for Child Care works from Hendra, Dunheved Road, Launceston.

### Hospital Services.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy Chest Hospital or Tehidy Hospital. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin, and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held twice monthly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital. An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A Specialist Ante-natal Clinic is held in Launceston each week.

### Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Plymouth and Truro to which specimens for bacteriological examination are submitted.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The East Cornwall Water Board serves the district with the exception of the parishes of Boyton, North Petherwin and Werrington which receive their water from the North Devon Water Board.

During the year the East Cornwall Water Board extended their mains as follows :-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Length of Main laid (approx.)</u>	<u>Material and Size</u>
St. Stephens	$\frac{3}{4}$ mile	3" & 4" P.V.C.
St. Thomas	778 yards	3", 4" & 6" P.V.C.
Lawhitton	133 yards	3" P.V.C.
Lezant	140 yards	3" P.V.C.
Stokeclimsland	3 miles	4" P.V.C.
Warbstow	266 yards	3" P.V.C.
North Hill	366 yards	2" P.V.C.

The North Devon Water Board did not lay any mains extensions in the three parishes concerned during the year.

The East Cornwall Water Board provided 112 new connections and the North Devon Water Board 15.

A total of 1,486 properties is provided with connections to the public main supply. Of this total 21 properties have standpipes.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of properties connected</u>	<u>+ Estimated population served</u>
Altarnon	195	546
Boyton	18	51
Egloskerry	64	179
Lawhitton	53	148
Lewannick	82	230
Lezant	85	238
North Hill	153	429
St. Stephens	43	120
St. Thomas	93	260
South Petherwin	196	549
Stokeclimsland	284	795
Tremaine	4	12



WATER SUPPLIES (contd.)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of properties connected</u>	<u>+ Estimated population served</u>
Warbstow	76	213
Werrington	62	173
North Petherwin	67	187
Tresmeer	17	48
Teeneglos	5	14
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Totals	1497	4192
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+ Estimate based on a population per dwelling of 2.8 persons.

Estimated population served by standpipes 59

WATER SAMPLES

Public Supply Samples

Samples were taken for bacteriological analysis from the following public supplies all of which are chlorinated.

	<u>Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Altarnon	10	8	2
Bastreet	41	23	18
Bolventor	7	7	
Tregadillett	3	3	
Warbstow	6	6	
Trebullett.	1	1	
Venterdon	1	1	
North Hill	3	2	1
Polyphant	1	1	
Lidwell	1	1	
Little Hampt (Luckett)	4	3	1
Langore	1	1	
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Total	79	57	22
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Chemical analyses of 9 supplies were made with satisfactory results.

Water from the Warbstow source contained amounts of iron which might possibly be sufficient to give rise to complaints of discolouration in a public supply.





### Private Supplies.

25 samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis from individual private supplies.

11 samples proved to be bacteriologically satisfactory and 14 were unsatisfactory. Advice and help is given where a supply is unsatisfactory in an effort to overcome adverse conditions. Individual domestic filters have been installed in several instances and subsequent samples have been wholly satisfactory. A sample of water is taken from properties with private supplies if applications for improvement grants are received.

Regular routine sampling of the water supplies to two large abattoirs in the district is undertaken as both establishments have private borehole supplies.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

Modern sewerage and sewage disposal facilities are available in the following communities :-

Altarnon and Five Lanes  
Trewint  
South Petherwin and Daws House  
Stokeclinsland, Old Mill and Higherland  
North Hill  
Coads Green  
Middlewood  
Lawhitton  
Trebulllett  
Egloskerry  
Langore  
Lewannick, Polyphant and Hicks Mill  
Trebursye  
North Petherwin  
Warbstow  
Tregadillett  
Bathpool  
Yeolmbridge, Ladycross and Wringsdown

#### Warbstow Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal to serve Warbstow Cross in the parish of Warbstow was completed in March 1971 and connections into the sewer were made from this date onwards. The disposal works are of the extended aeration type with final effluent being passed over grass plot areas before discharge to the watercourse. The contractor for the scheme was Messrs. I.F.Barriball of Week St.Mary.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES (contd.)

### Tregadillett Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal designed to serve the village area, school, caravan park and limited development was completed at the end of April, 1971, and connections into the sewer were made from this date onwards.

The disposal works are of the extended aeration type with the effluent passed over grass plot areas and the final effluent taken through a main to the River Kensey at New Mills.

Because of the rapid rate of private development in the area extensions to the sewage disposal plant had to be made earlier than had originally been envisaged and in May 1971 a further extended aeration plant was installed.

The final work of connecting this new plant into the existing system has not yet been carried out.

The contractors for the scheme are Bazeleys (St. Columb) Contractors.

### Yeolmbridge & Ladycross Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

Construction of this scheme started in February, 1971 and serves the areas of Yeolmbridge, Wringsdown and Ladycross in the parish of Werrington. Connections to the sewer were made from April, 1971 onwards and the sewage disposal works and system of sewerage were virtually completed at the same time.

Sewage from Ladycross and Yeolmbridge flows by gravity to a pumping station at Yeolmbridge whence it is pumped to the disposal works at Wringsdown. The sewage from the Wringsdown area flows by gravity to the disposal works.

The disposal works are of the extended aeration type with the addition of a clarifier for tertiary treatment before the final effluent is discharged to the River Ottery.

The contractor for the scheme was Bazeleys (St. Columb) Contractors.

### Bathpool Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal to serve the village of Bathpool in the parish of North Hill was commenced in July, 1971 and was completed in November, 1971 and connections to the sewer were made from that date onward. The scheme comprised a system of gravity sewers flowing to a central pumping station from which point the sewage is pumped to an extended aeration plant whence it flows by gravity through a clarifier to provide tertiary treatment before being discharged to the River Lynher.

The contractor for the scheme was Bazeleys (St. Columb) Contractors.







### Lezant Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

Construction of this scheme started in October, 1971 and work is still in progress. When complete the scheme will serve Treburley and Trekener in the first stage and Lezant, Churchtown, Rezarc and Beals Mill in the second stage. The disposal works for both stages will be of the extended aeration type followed by a clarifier with the final effluent discharging to the River Inney just below Beals Mill.

The contractor for the first stage of this scheme is Bazeleys (St. Columb) Contractors.

The execution of the Council's programme of sewerage, sewage disposal and maintenance of completed schemes is the responsibility of the Engineer & Surveyor.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

#### Trebursye and Altarnon

The value and importance of the conveniences at Trebursye on the A.30 trunk road cannot be over emphasised. They meet a real need particularly during the summer months.

The conveniences at Altarnon blend well with their surroundings and are a useful amenity catering for village and tourist needs.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council does not employ a Rodent Operator. Advice on the treatment of infestations is given by the Public Health Inspector on receipt of a complaint.

A programme of regular treatment for the control of rats on the refuse tip has been difficult to maintain following the death of Mr. H.G.Wyatt who had carried out this work. The rodent population on the tips, however, has been minimal.

Eleven complaints of rat and mice infestation of domestic properties were received during the year. In each case advice was given by the Public Health Inspector after visiting the premises concerned.

### THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

There are three multiple caravan sites in the district. One caravan site is situated at Tregadillett where the provision of the public sewer has meant that a long standing drainage difficulty from the caravan site has been solved.



## REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council employs a contractor to collect household refuse along specified routes at weekly intervals, for which the contractor provides a purpose built vehicle. Minor extensions of routes are made as and when the necessity arises, and the vast majority of the properties in the district receive a weekly refuse collection. The properties not receiving a collection are mostly odd isolated houses on the moor. In some cases, however, arrangements have been made for the contractor to collect their refuse which is brought to the main highway or to a lay-by. The contractor is most helpful and as a result the service is efficient and most economical.

The Council operates two refuse tips, one of which is sited on land belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall at Stokeclimsland. Only refuse from this same parish is deposited on this tip. The remainder of the refuse from all other parishes is taken to the tip sited about two miles from Launceston in the parish of St. Stephens.

## HOUSING

Local Authority owned houses	...	...	188
Local Authority houses completed in 1971	...	...	Nil
Private Enterprise houses completed in 1971	...	...	105

It is worth noting here that the number of private enterprise houses completed in 1971 was more than double the number completed in 1970.

## Housing Act 1957

1. Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	...	...	Nil
2. Individual unfit houses demolished	...	...	Nil
3. Unfit houses closed	...	...	4
4. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied :-			
(a) After informal action	...	...	19
(b) After formal notice under the Public Health Acts	...	...	1
(c) After formal notice under the Housing Act	...	...	Nil

## OVERCROWDING

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

## RENT ACTS

No certificates of disrepair were requested.





## IMPROVEMENT AND STANDARD GRANTS

The response to the Housing Act 1969, in respect of both Improvement and Standard Grants, was maintained until this legislation was superseded by the Housing Act, 1971. The general impetus increased with the advent of the 1971 Act. The administration of the legislation was made more difficult by its premature announcement and its coming into force before local authorities had been given all the relevant information. Nevertheless, by the end of the year the "teething" difficulties had been overcome. The appropriate statistical information is listed below :-

### Housing Act 1969

Schemes submitted in 1971 prior to the 1971 Act	...	4
Schemes approved in 1971 prior to the 1971 Act	...	1
Amount of grant approved in 1971 prior to the 1971 Act	£843.22p	
Schemes completed under the 1969 Act	...	5
Amount of grant paid in 1971 under the Housing Act 1969	...	£5,000
Schemes listed above re-submitted under the 1971 Act	...	3

### STANDARD GRANTS

Schemes submitted during 1971	...	46
Schemes formally approved during 1971	...	43
Schemes completed and paid in 1971	...	43
Amount of grants approved in 1971	...	£17,202.51p.
Amount of grant paid in 1971	...	£11,931.22p.
Total number of grants offered	...	489
Total number of grants paid	...	399
Total value of grants paid	...	£67,860.07p.
Total number of water closets provided	...	381
Total number of baths provided	...	391
Total number of lavatory basins provided	...	387
Total number of hot water systems provided	...	384
Sinks provided for the first time	...	52

The average grant was £270.75p an average increase of £8 grant per property over the previous year.

### ICE CREAM HEAT TREATMENT REGULATIONS

The factory previously operating in the district has closed.





## MILK SUPPLIES

### Brucella Abortus

By an arrangement with the County Medical Officer, samples of raw milk from the herds of producer-retailers in the area are taken by the County Public Health Inspector, every two to three months, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Truro, for examination. Bulk samples are first subjected to the Milk Ring Test, and, if positive, samples from the individual cows in the herd are subsequently submitted for culture for brucella abortus. Ten herds were examined under these arrangements.

The results given below refer only to samples from individual cows submitted for culture.

(i) <u>Number of samples of raw milk examined</u>	233
(ii) <u>Number of positive samples found</u>	Nil
(iii) <u>Action taken in respect of positive samples</u>	-

### Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme.

The herds of four producer-retailers in the District are now registered as accredited under this scheme. In these cases, routine sampling is undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## FOOD PREMISES

There are in the district :-

Cafes, Snack Bars and Restaurants	14
Butchers Shops	4
Grocers	27

134 visits were made to all types of food premises.

No formal notices were served.

## KNACKERS YARD

There is one licensed knackers yard in the district.

## MEAT INSPECTION & SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three slaughterhouses in the district. Two are large abattoirs which slaughter for the wholesale market. The third slaughterhouse serves the needs of an individual butcher.

A one hundred per cent meat inspection service is provided by the Council's Public Health Inspector and two Authorised Meat Inspectors.



Maintaining the meat inspection service with this amount of staff has proved difficult at holiday times and during periods of sickness. Assistance is not available from local or nearby veterinary surgeons other than for relatively short periods and the cost to the Council is high. During the year, with holidays and sickness periods, the Public Health Inspector has spent a very considerable time on full-time meat inspection.

Details of the animals slaughtered and inspected are set out in the table attached to this report (Table IV).

#### POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing establishments registered with the Council.

#### SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Six dealers are currently registered.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Total number of factories with power	24
Total number of factories without power	4
Outworkers	Nil

#### CLASSIFICATION OF FACTORIES

Agricultural Foodstuffs	5
Motor Vehicle Repairs	4
Agricultural Engineers	4
Abattoirs	2
General Smithing	1
Concrete Block Making	1
Joinery	4
Ice Cream Manufacture	Nil
Saw Mills	1
Poultry Appliances	1
Scrap Merchants	2
Clothing	2
Knacker	1

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Act are attached to this report in the manner required by Circular 1/71 of the Department of Health and Social Security.





THE OFFICES SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registrations existing at the end of the year.

Offices	3
Retail Shops	4
Wholesale shops and warehouses	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public	3
Fuel storage Depots	Nil
	<hr/>
	10
	<hr/>

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in  
Registered Premises at end of year

Offices	9	
Retail Shops	6	
Wholesale departments, warehouses	Nil	
Catering establishments open to public	18	
Canteens	3	
Fuel storage depots	Nil	
	<hr/>	
	36	(of whom 20 are females)
	<hr/>	

One accident was reported.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Cholera, plague, relapsing fever, typhus, smallpox, acute encephalitis, acute meningitis, acute poliomyelitis, anthrax, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, diphtheria, infective jaundice, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, measles, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid fever, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, yellow fever and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year.

The Department of Health and Social Security, after considering the advice of its expert Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, decided during the year to abandon the practice of routine vaccination against smallpox in infancy and early childhood, and advised Health Authorities and doctors accordingly. This decision was based on the remarkable progress which has been made by the World Health Organisation in its smallpox eradication programme. This has been so successful that the chances of the introduction of smallpox into Britain have substantially diminished and are likely to continue to lessen with the further progress of the eradication campaign. The British public are, therefore, far less likely to be exposed to the risk of this infection than ever before, and the risk of contracting the disease is now considered to be less than the risk of complications from vaccination, although this risk is very small.

This decision affects routine infant vaccination only. The protective value of successful vaccination to the individual is so high that vaccination and revaccination will continue to be offered to health service staff - doctors, nurses, public health staff and ambulance workers, and also to travellers to and from areas of the world where smallpox still exists.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year. 321 children in the Health Area received a complete course of immunisation during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in all cases. 359 children received reinforcing injections, the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine being used in these cases.

Poliomyelitis No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 341 persons in the Health Area received a complete course of oral vaccination, and a further 373 a reinforcing dose.

Measles Eleven cases were notified during the year.

Vaccination against measles has now taken its place as one of the routine protective procedures in the schedule of infant vaccination, and is offered during the second year of life, usually following the completion of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and poliomyelitis vaccination courses at the age of one year. It continues to be available also for older children who have not already had this protection, or suffered from the infection.

During the year, 317 children were vaccinated against the disease in the whole of the Health Area.





Whooping Cough. Seven cases of this infection were notified during the year.

Infective Jaundice. One case of this disease was notified in December. The patient was an adult, and the infection does not appear to have been severe.

Food Poisoning. No cases of food poisoning were notified in 1971.

During the year, information was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that salmonella typhimurium, one of the food-poisoning group of germs, had been isolated from a bovine faecal specimen from a farm in the district. No cases of infection by this organism arose in the human contacts of this animal.

### Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
Cases on Register 31.12.70	5	2	5	2
No. of cases notified during the year	-	1	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	1	-	-	-
Cases Removed	-	-	-	-
<hr/>				
Cases on Register 31.12.71	6	3	5	2

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after care of the patients.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Dawson) at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable essential "Liaison Officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap.

All susceptible contacts of known cases are offered B.C.G. vaccination and most avail themselves of this method of protection.

The scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible children of secondary school age was continued by the County Council during the year, again with a good response.





### OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1971, out of a total of seven deaths from all forms of cancer, one male death was due to cancer of the lung. This brings the total of deaths from this cause in the district since 1949 to 25 male and four female deaths. During the same period, there have been 131 male and 143 female deaths from all forms of cancer.

Cancer of the Cervix. The County Council's Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston continued to operate during the year.

Women between the ages of 30 and 55 years are accepted for this form of examination. The clinic at Launceston serves the whole of the Health Area and beyond. During the year, 655 specimens were submitted to the laboratory. Two cases of the pre-cancerous stage of the disease were discovered, and a number of minor conditions were identified. The patient's general practitioner received a copy of the laboratory report, and arranges for appropriate treatment.

The national scheme for the conduct of this form of investigation envisages the repetition of this type of test for each individual after an interval of five years. Towards the end of the year, a start was made in recalling those women who had taken advantage of the scheme at its beginning, but the number so tested was small, largely owing to the fact that very few tests could be carried out with the limited laboratory facilities available when the clinic was started.

### MEALS-ON-WHEELS SERVICE

This service continued during the year, and was extended to include the parishes of Egloskerry, Laneast and South Petherwin.

This extension of the service is proof of its value, and the benefit of the recipients, and their appreciation is justification for the provision of the service.

The Meals-on-Wheels Sub-Committee continued to be responsible for the service, and Mrs. Bryant remained responsible for its organisation and administration.



TABLE I

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex distribution of cases and deaths - 1971

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pul.		Other		Pul.		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

## VITAL STATISTICS

YEAR	POPULATION (Estimated)	BIRTHS		DEATHS			
		Number	Crude Rate	Under 1 year		All ages	
				Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1967	7,050	100	14.2	3	30	74	10.5
1968	7,070	110	15.6	2	18	70	9.9
1969	7,090	80	11.3	1	12.5	82	11.6
1970	7,060	98	13.9	4	41	83	11.8
1971	6,990	106	15.2	2	19	67	9.6

TABLE III

## Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	7
Measles	1	4	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	2	5	4	1	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	19





## TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTIONCarcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
No. killed	1279	1152	5430	62673	25838	-	-
No. inspected	1279	1152	5430	62673	25838	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>							
Whole carcasses conden- -ned	3	35	105	234	121	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	510	612	149	3845	4883	-	-
% of the number inspec- -ted affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	40.12	56.16	4.49	6.51	19.41	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses conden- -ned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	114	-	-
% of the number inspec- -ted affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.404	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Unfit meat and offal condemned 39 tons 13 cwt. 78 lbs. approx.



TABLE V

Classified Visits and Inspections made by  
the Public Health Inspector.

Food and Drugs Act	4
Infectious Diseases	3
Public Health Act	75
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	Nil
Slaughterhouses, Meat Inspection and Food Premises	134
Milk and Dairies	Nil
Improvement Grants	376
Caravan Sites	2
Rodent Control	6
Housing Act	55
Refuse Disposal	42
Sewers and sewerage	76
Water Supplies	18
Factories Act	Nil
Miscellaneous	24
Total	<u>815</u>



APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of  
the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	Nil	-	-
(ii) Factories not includ- ed in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	Nil	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl- uding Outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	28	Nil	-	-





2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)					
Overcrowding (Section 2)					
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)					
Inadequate Ventilation (Section 4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total					

PART VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

N I L

